ONGC operations in Mehsana district

3314. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the Economic Times of 24th July, 1988 regarding the study conducted by Lok Vikas highlighting the destruction of valuable land and the problems created for the local farmers due to the ONGC operations in Mehsana district; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard and the manner in which Government propose to solve the problem and redress the grievances of the farmers and others affected by the ONGC operations in Mehsana district?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Payment of compensation to landowners is being made as determined by the revenue authorities of the State Government. ONGC's operations are being carried out strictly as per Mines and Safety Rules and it has support from the Gujarat Pollution Control Board for its operations. The reasonability of the demands of the farmers for increasing the rate of compensation in Mehsana district is under study by the Revenue Department of the State Government.

World Bank aid for Muddanur Thermal Power Project

3315. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposed World Bank aid for the Muddanur Thermal Power Project in Andhra Pradesh has been received by Government: and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise.

World Bank concern over NTPC overdues

3316. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the World Bank has indicated that future funding of the National Thermal Power Corporation would depend on the recovery of the dues by the Corporation from the State Electricity Boards and that the NTPC has requested the Central Government for assistance in the matter;

(b) if so, what is the quantum of of World Bank assistance to the NTPC;

(c) what is the annual percentage of recovery of the amount overdue by the NTPC from the State Electricity Boards and what is the outstanding amount at the end of 1987;

(d) what are the reasons for the low recovery of dues by the NTPC; and

(e) the manner in which Government propose to solve the problem of accumulation of arrears by the State Electricity Boards?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) Concern has been expressed over the arrears of the National Thermal Powe Corporation (NTPC) in respect of sales of power to the State Electricity Boards etc. The NTPC have sought assistance of the government in this regard World Bank assistance to the on-going projects of NTPC amounts to about US $ 3862 million.

(c) and (d) As on 31st December. 1987, the arrears of the Electricity Boards were Rs 251.52 crores. The annual percentage of recovery from the Boards was 88 per cent in 1986-87, 91 per cent in 1987-88 and 76 per cent in 1988-89 (upto July, 1988). The financial constraints of the Boards are indicated as a major reason for the arrears.

(e) The NTPC are pursuing the recovery of their dues with the State Electricity Boards and Undertakings concerned. The matter is also being followed up with the State Governments etc. concerned who have been advised to expedite liquidation of the arrears and to open Letters of Credit for payment of the dues.

Import of L.P.G.

3317. SHRI JAGADISH JANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are importing LPG and if so, since when;

(b) whether Government propose to increase the import of LPG during the current financial year and to what extent;

(c) what is the cost of import bill for LPG during the last three years (yearwise); and ,

(d) what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) (a) The import of LPG was started in the year 1979-80.

(b) to (d) The details regarding the import of LPG during last three years is indicated below:

Qty. '000 tonnes

Value : Rs./lakhs

	Quantity	Value
1985-86 . . .	32	1090
1986-87 . . .	22	409
1987-88 (Provisional) . .	152	4501

Power consumption by agricultural sector

3318. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what percentage of energy is utilised by the agricultural sector in the country at present; and

(b) what are the proposals to enhance the share of power consumption in agricultural sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) According to the thirteenth power survey committee report, the percentage of energy utilised by the agricultural sector during 1987-88 was estimated to be 18.12 per cent.

(b) The supply of power to various categories of consumers is decided by the State authorities keeping in view the overall demand for power and its availability. The states have been advised from time to time to give priority to the supply of power to the agricultural sector.

Request of Punjab State Electricity Board for loan

3319. SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Finance Corporation has received a request from Punjab State Electricity Board for loan for improvement of the distribution system in urban areas;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) and (b) Power Finance Corporation had received proposals from the Punjab State Electricity Board for financial assistance for improving the distribution system in Amritsar, Batala, Ludhiana and Pathankot.